

# Off-Street Parking Petitions Pass 50 Per Cent Mark

# BOARD APPROVES STATE AID BID

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OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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# DETECTIVES SMASH ROBBERY RING; ARREST SIX SUSPECTS

## Pawned Camera Leads to Ring

Three Torrance detectives rounded up six suspects over the week end and charged them with counts of armed robbery, burglary and attempted robbery in connection with a number of recent crimes here.

Det. Sgt. Ted Morris and Detectives Mickey Fisher and Don Hamilton said they had been working for about a month on the cases.

The suspects were charged with a number of crimes here including the March 5 robbery of Verburg's Dairy at 182nd St. and Crenshaw Blvd., and the safe-lifting job at Perfection Cleaners, Frasier Ave. at Redondo Beach Blvd., recently.

The attempted robbery of a pedestrian at Crenshaw Blvd. and Matfield St. recently and the burglary of a north Torrance home were also attributed to the gang, detectives said.

Named as suspects are Robert Sommers, 20, of Gardena; Jay Grigsby, 25, of 1460 W. 182nd St.; Glenn Nance, 20, of 21709 Delores St., and an Earl Osborn. Two juveniles also were questioned concerning the crimes.

Grigsby, Nance and a 16-year-old local boy were charged with the burglary of the Al Carey residence at 17219 Wilkie in north Torrance, Carey, a Gardena reserve policeman, reported the loss of a .38-caliber pistol and a camera in the burglary.

Sommers and Osborn were charged with robbing the cleaning establishment of its small safe recently. The two walked in, asked for some clothes they had left, then took the safe while clerks were in the rear of the store searching for the order. Sommers also has been charged with the robbery at the dairy.

Detectives here said Sommers currently is serving a term in the County Jail for car theft.

Grigsby also has been accused of looting a Gardena home and taking 13 rifles from the residence, authorities said.

## Gunmen Get \$225 in Store Robbery Here

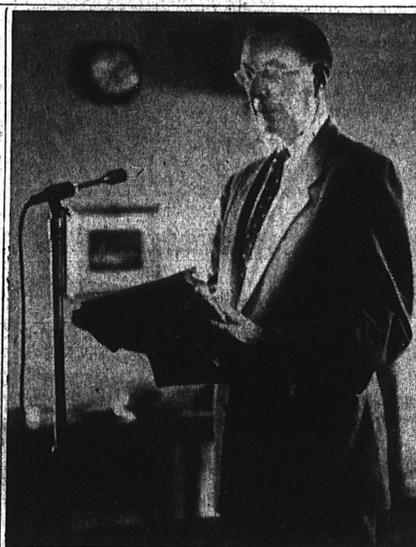
Two thugs forced a liquor store owner against the wall and held him at bay with a .38-caliber pistol Tuesday night while rifling the cash register to get about \$225 in currency, police said.

Ante Boskovich, owner of a store at 18015 Crenshaw Blvd., said he had just entered a walk-in ice box at about 11:45 p.m. when one of the robbers came up and shoved a gun into his back. "This is a stickup, face the wall and don't turn around and you won't get hurt," the gunman told Boskovich.

While the other bandit was taking money from the cash register, the gunman took about \$30 from his wallet, the victim told authorities.

Boskovich said the two men left through the rear door of the store on foot.

He was able to give a partial description of one of the robbers, police said.



DEAN L. SEARS  
... Submits Parking Petitions

## Title Search on City Lots Voted

Petitions representing more than 50 per cent of the downtown property owners were filed with the City Council this week asking for the formation of an off-street parking assessment district. The petitions, in circulation since earlier this year, were presented to the Council by Dean L. Sears, chairman of the Chamber of Commerce parking committee.

Sears told members of the Council that the petitions now signed represented 56.3 per cent of the total assessed valuation in the area designated as the downtown parking district some time ago.

Will Continue  
"We are not through," Sears said. "We will continue to get signatures to these petitions as long as we are able to locate owners."

On the basis of the petitions filed, the Council authorized City Attorney James M. Hall to proceed with title searches on the properties earmarked for acquisition throughout the area. The next step will be to raise funds on a temporary basis in anticipation of the sale of revenue bonds against the parking district and begin the negotiation or condemnation of the lots.

Groups to Meet  
The Council and members of the Chamber board agreed to a dinner meeting on May 16 to discuss informally "matters of mutual concern."

In other action by the Council, the City Manager was authorized to employ an interior decorator to make recommendations on carpeting, color schemes, drapes, and other phases of the new Civic Center project.

"We are approaching the completion date on the Civic Center," Stevens told the Council. "We have reached the stage where we must be considering these things because of future delivery dates." He assured members of the Council, jokingly, that the project would not be completed next week.

## Isen Cites the Law; Names Appointees

Mayor Albert Isen served notice on the Council this week that he intends to continue making all of the board and commission appointments in the city when he rebuffed an attempt by Councilman Nick Drale to nominate a new member to the city's Planning Commission.

The showdown came on naming a Commissioner to succeed former President Beverly E. Smith who had submitted his resignation to the Council previously.

Drale, citing that he had made the Smith appointment to the Commission originally, nominated John K. Kesson of north Torrance to succeed him. His nomination was seconded by Willys Blount.

Cites the Law  
The mayor ruled both out of order and said that he was making the appointment—and asked City Attorney James M. Hall to cite the governing ordinance on the matter.

Isen then asked approval of his appointment of William E. King Jr., unsuccessful candidate on the recent Isen ticket for Council. King was approved by a 3-2 vote with Victor Benstead and Bob Jahn, King's running mates in the campaign, joining the mayor. Blount and Drale opposed the appointment.

Mayor Takes Over  
The matter of appointments to commissions has been a source of irritation among Councilmen in recent months. The dispute began when the mayor announced one night that he was exercising his prerogative and would make the appointments in the future.

His action violates years of tradition, according to Blount and Drale, who say it has been a long-standing practice to let each member of the Council make appointments to the various advisory boards in turn.

Another flare-up has developed between Isen and Drale over Property Management Corp. subdivisions in north Torrance.

Opinion Requested  
As one of the real estate agents participating in the original sale of the land on which the subdivision is now being proposed, Drale has consistently declined to enter the discussions or voting on the matter as it came before the Council.

Isen declared recently that he would vote "no" on all matters where another member of the Council abstained from voting. He was joined this week by Benstead and the tract was held up. Isen asked City Attorney Hall for a formal ruling on Drale's position in the matter.

Hall is expected to submit his opinion next week.

The fast-growing Torrance concern was recently awarded a contract by the Naval Bureau of Ordnance to produce special designed aluminum gunshields. Longren had previously submitted the lowest of 22 competitive bids that were received by the Navy.

Almost simultaneously, Longren completed negotiations to produce a large quantity of equipment pods, that will be carried by some of the nation's most modern military aircraft.

## School Board Okays State Aid Proposal

Board of Education members unanimously passed a resolution at their Tuesday night meeting to prepare the Torrance Unified School District's application for state funds to be used in school construction.

School administrators had previously announced that they would present the proposal to the board. It calls for a loan of some \$8 million from the state, on a 30-year repayment basis.

An special election will be held late this year to decide whether or not local residents will go along with the proposal. Present indications are that the loan will not put increased tax burdens on Torrance residents.

Residents in the Evelyn and Kathryn Ave. sections were those present to ask the rezoning. Some said they lived within a stone's toss of Seaside School, yet their children had to trek almost a mile to the other school.

Board officials reminded the group they are studying a complete rezoning of school boundaries for the 1956-57 school year. Since the heavy loads on schools continue to shift and increased construction brings new schools into the district, the board said, officials are continually faced with rezoning problems.

Board President Charlton A. (Continued on Page 4)

## Longren Gets \$1.5 Million Air Contracts

Longren Aircraft Co. announced yesterday that they have received two new defense contracts aggregating more than \$1,500,000.

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(Herald Photo)

SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS . . . Winning \$100 cash scholarships in the Youth Band competition Saturday were Michael Mullen, piano; Susan Moody, violin, and Jack Johnston, clarinet. No winner was named this year in voice.

## Music Scholarship Winners Listed by Area Youth Band

Two Torrance High School students and one from Redondo Beach were named scholarship winners in the annual Youth Band-Artist Concert Assn. music scholarship competition held at El Camino Campus Theater last Saturday. It was announced here yesterday by Band President W. E. Bowen.

Winners named were Jack Johnston, 2760 Gramercy Ave., a Torrance High School senior, wind instrument division; Michael Mullen, 1519 Post Ave., a Torrance freshman, piano division, and Susan Moody, a Redondo High School freshman, string division. No competition was held in voice this year because of limited applicants.

The three winners will receive \$100 cash scholarships each and will appear as guest soloists with the Torrance Area Youth Band in its "Tenth Anniversary Concert" to be held in the Torrance Civic Auditorium Wednesday evening, May 23.

Johnston's winning effort in the competition was the Von Weber Clarinet Concertino. Mullen played the first movement of Beethoven's "Pathétique" Sonata, and Miss Moody played the first movement of the Mendelssohn Concerto in E Minor.

Judges for the competition included Ralph Rush, director of public school music at SC; Nicolas Furjanik, concertmaster and assistant conductor of the Long Beach Symphony, and Natalie Limonick, piano instructor at City College and assistant in the opera workshop at UCLA.

Others named in the balloting this week included H. Masnie, first vice president; Dave Figueredo, second vice president, and E. V. Winkelbauer, secretary-treasurer.

Named to the board of directors were H. C. Trevisan, Dr. Tom Randall, John Moore, Herb Clark, and Vern Coll. Bradford, as retiring president, will be a member of the board as will the four new officers.

Installation of new officers will be held at La Venta Inn on Friday night, June 1. Officers take over reins of the club on that date.

## Police Plan Benefit Show

Plans for the annual police show sponsored by the Torrance Police Department as a benefit for the officers' year-around youth welfare work are being worked out this week, Chief Willard H. Haslam reported yesterday.

Present planning calls for a dance at the Hollywood Palladium, he said.

The early announcement on the dance, scheduled for August or later, is being made because many other police departments in Southern California are now offering tickets to their shows.

"We would like to have Torrance residents support their own police in the youth welfare program," Haslam said.



(Herald Photo)  
CLYDE ANDERSON  
... City's Top Optimist

## Clyde Anderson To Head City's Optimist Club

Clyde Anderson, a native of Torrance who was born in an apartment at El Prado and Sartori, was named president of the Torrance Optimist Club in the organization's annual elections this week. A partner in the Carr-Anderson service station on Carson St., he will succeed George A. Bradford as the top Optimist.

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## Lomita Street Repair Projects Start Soon

Work is scheduled to start within the next three weeks on the repair of streets and driveways between Cypress St. and Pennsylvania Ave. in Lomita, according to an announcement made by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

Chace said that the board of supervisors Tuesday approved an appropriation of \$13,200 for the repair work of the streets which are adjacent to the newly constructed storm drain on 248th St.

The damage to the streets and driveways, Chace declared, was caused by settlement over the newly constructed drain during recent heavy rains.

## Kefauver, Stevenson Due Here Next Week

Auditorium. The meeting is free and open to the public; according to Leo Benstead, Torrance area campaign chairman for Kefauver.

It will be the senator's first visit to Torrance.

Two days later, on Friday, May 11, his strongest contender for the nomination, Adlai Stevenson, will make his appearance in Torrance, the place to be announced later. Stevenson, the 1952 Democratic nominee who was defeated by Eisenhower for the presidency, is scheduled to arrive in Torrance at 10:30 a.m. Friday.



(Herald Photo)

NEW JAYCEE PRESIDENT . . . Dale Stanton, of 23165 Palena Ave., has been named president of the Torrance Junior Chamber of Commerce to succeed Phil Lisman. Installation will be at the Palos Verdes Country Club July 7. Other officers include Mike Goetsch, first vice president; Keith Fischel, second vice president; Nolan Stuckey, state director; Lou Schlanger, secretary, and Bob Waddell, treasurer. Nine members of the Jaycees will attend the state convention in San Francisco this week end.